

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 061634Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4342

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12331

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, UK, US, KE

SUBJECT: BRITISH REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN RESUPPLY
OF KENYA

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET AUGUST 6 WITH MARTIN EWANS, HEAD OF FCO EAST AFRICA DEPARTMENT, AND ANDREW PALMER OF FCO DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AT THEIR REQUEST TO DISCUSS UK MILITARY RESUPPLY EFFORTS FOR KENYA. EWANS SAID THE BRITISH HAD REACHED THE END OF THE LINE IN ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT AN AIR ROUTE TO CARRY MUNITIONS TO NAIROBI. THE "CENTO ROUTE" WAS SCOTCHED WITH THE FINAL TURK REFUSAL TO GRANT CLEARANCE A WEEK AGO, AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ROUTE VIA ASCENSION ISLAND WAS FORECLOSED BECAUSE OF KENYAN UNWILLINGNESS TO APPROACH TANZANIA FOR CLEARANCE. EWANS SAID THE FCO HAD NOW BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN TO APPROACH THE AMERICANS AND SUGGEST A THIRD ALTERNATIVE, THE "WESTERN ROUTE." PALMER THEN EXPLAINED THAT HMG IS OFFICIALLY PROPOSING THAT IT BE PERMITTED TO FLY THE NEEDED MILITARY SUPPLIES TO THE US WEST COAST, AND THAT THE USAF THEN TRANSPORT THE MATERIAL FROM THERE TO NAIROBI VIA THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS. FCO WOULD APPRECIATE OUR REACTION TO THIS SUGGESTED PARTNERSHIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED WHY FCO HAD NOT RAISED THIS QUESTION DURING THE KISSINGER-SCHAUFELE VISIT HERE
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AUGUST 4 AND 5 (ANSWER: BECAUSE HMG WAS STILL CONSIDER-

ING ANOTHER POSSIBLE AIR/SEA ROUTE VIA GIBRALTAR AND SUEZ CANAL); AND WHY THE BRITISH DID NOT WISH THE RAF TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY WESTWARD AND ITSELF MAKE THE DELIVERY IN KENYA (ANSWER: BECAUSE OF EXPENSE AND AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY).

3. EWANS DESCRIBED THE KENYANS AS SUFFERING A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE WEST. THEY ARE KEENLY SENSITIVE TO THEIR OWN ISOLATION HE SAID, AND THE FAILURE TO SECURE AIR CLEARANCES FOR A VITAL RESUPPLY EFFORT HAS UNDERSCORED THIS SENSATION. WHITEHALL BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO DEMONSTRATE WESTERN SUPPORT FOR KENYA, AND IF THIS SUPPORT IS EXPRESSED IN AN ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORT, SO MUCH THE BETTER.

4. PROPOSED AIR SHIPMENT CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING (UK WOULD TRANSPORT MATERIAL IN TWO 707'S OR IN TWO HERCULES PLUS ONE 707):

- A) 1280 ROUNDS 81MM HIGH EXPLOSIVE (10,000 KILOS)
- B) 592 ROUNDS 81MM SMOKE (4,555 KILOS)
- C) 20,000 ROUNDS 20MM (8,027 KILOS)
- D) 20,000 ROUNDS 30MM HIGH EXPLOSIVE (20,630 KILOS)
- E) 10,000 ROUNDS 30MM ARMOR PIERCING (8,728 KILOS)
- F) 10 BL-755 CLUSTER BOMBS (4,721 KILOS)

APPROXIMATE TOTAL WEIGHT: 56,836 KILOS

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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